

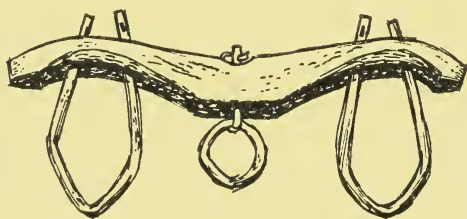
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Illinois, Civil war Centennial
Commission. Report to
Governor Otto Kerner. . .

LINCOLN ROOM




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REPORT
of the
CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
OF ILLINOIS
to
GOVERNOR OTTO KERNER
and the
Members of the Seventy-second General Assembly
March 1961

Springfield, Illinois; Civil War Centennial
Commission of Illinois, March, 1961

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Lincoln Bell.

To Governor Otto Kerner
and the
Members of the Seventy-second General Assembly:

We have the honor of transmitting herewith the report of the Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois, created by the Seventy-first General Assembly, pursuant to House Bill No. 879. The report enumerates plans and programs for the state of Illinois to adopt in commemorating the Civil War. It represents the results of the Commission's various public and executive meetings as well as the several studies initiated by the Commission. It includes recommendations for legislative consideration and action and is submitted in accordance with the provisions of the act which established the Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,
GEORGE P. JOHNS, *Chairman*

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Senator George P. Johns, *Decatur*, Chairman
Rep. Ralph E. Stephenson, *Moline*, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Newton C. Farr, *Chicago*, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Clyde C. Walton, *Springfield*, Secretary
Rep. Charles F. Armstrong, *Chicago*
Mrs. John S. Gilster, *Chester*
Mr. Wasson W. Lawrence, *Fairfield*
Mr. Robert E. Miller, Jr., *Springfield*
Senator James O. Monroe, *Collinsville*
Mr. Ralph G. Newman, *Chicago*

HEADQUARTERS:

Illinois State Historical Library
Centennial Building
Springfield, Illinois

71st G. A.

HOUSE BILL NO. 879

H B 879
1959

Introduced by Mr. Stephenson, April 14, 1959.

Read by title, ordered printed and to lie on the Speaker's table.

A BILL

*For an Act to create the Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois,
to define its powers and duties and to make an appropriation
thereto.*

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 1. There is created the Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois, consisting of 2 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker thereof, 2 members of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees thereof, and 5 citizens to be ap-

pointed by the Governor. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The Commission shall meet at such times and places as the chairman designates. Vacancies in the membership of the Commission shall be filled as provided for original appointments.

Section 2. The Commission shall select as chairman and such other officers, other than a secretary, as it deems advisable, from among its members. The State Historian shall be ex-officio secretary of the Commission. He shall receive no compensation for his services other than his salary as State Historian, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of his duties. The Commission may employ such technical, professional, clerical and other employees as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, without regard to the "Personnel Code."

Section 3. The Commission shall prepare an overall program to include specific plans for commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Civil War. In preparing its plans and programs, the Commission shall give consideration to any similar and related plans advanced by civic, patriotic and historical groups of this State, and the Federal Government.

The Commission shall submit a report to the Governor and to the Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Illinois, prior to February 15, 1961, of the results of the study together with such recommendations for legislative consideration and action as it determines to be necessary or desirable.

Section 4. The sum of \$10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated to the Commission for carrying out its duties under this Act.

Approved July 17, 1959.

INTRODUCTION

Today, one hundred years after the Civil War, each of the states in the Union is making preparations for centennial commemorative observances in keeping with the spirit of that period in our national history. It seems significant that in our own time, a time of international uncertainty and desperate, warlike machinations involving the entire world, we Americans are planning to take a retrospective look at a time which was equally turbulent within the United States. This reflective inspection of our own Civil War cannot help but inspire us to face today's troubled times with imagination, strength, and courage.

The centennial involves more than a simple retelling of the Civil War story. The time is at hand when we can abandon the glamorous and the fictitious, for we must no longer be content with legends about romantic, but fleshless, figures in blue and gray. Rather, during the Civil War Centennial years, we must reveal the truth as it was lived by real men. We must put flesh on the dry bones of history.

We are now ready to accept the political and moral lessons of the Civil War story. And we are anxious as a state and as a nation to catch the fire that kindled the bright light of patriotism and national unity in our past. Our forefathers believed in and fought for ideals; the Civil War Centennial years offer a great opportunity for us to strengthen our bond with them and reaffirm our own beliefs in the rights of man and the cause of freedom. We are indebted to them for preserving national unity, and we can repay our debt by rededicating ourselves in their memory during the centennial observances of the Civil War.

Historian Bruce Catton, of the national Centennial Commission, has written:

"The Civil War was the greatest test our country ever faced. Built of the heroism and endurance that were drawn from men

and women of both sections by devotion to principles valued more than life itself, it was our most profound and tragic emotional experience.

"What was lost in it was lost by all of us; what was finally gained, affecting our national character and our national destiny itself—the preservation of the American union as an instrumentality of freedom of all the people of the world—was gained by all of us.

"The loss, the gain and the experience itself are a common national possession."

WHY ILLINOIS SHOULD COMMEMORATE THE CIVIL WAR

During its early meetings, the Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois was concerned with formulating answers to these questions: Why should Illinois commemorate the Civil War? What purpose is there in observing, on the state level, the centennial of a national tragedy? As these questions were raised, debated, and discussed, certain answers became obvious.

While the war was a national event, every corner of America was affected. Only through the study of how each locality was involved and the individual American affected, can the true meaning and significance of the war be properly appreciated. Further, through such study the democratic and national ideals which were upheld during four years of fratricidal war can be re-emphasized in each locality.

Here in Illinois, more than a quarter of a million men took up arms to fight for their ideals. They were banded together in Illinois units and proudly represented Illinois on the battlefield. There were Illinois generals as well as Illinois statesmen in Washington, and over all was an Illinois President, Abraham Lincoln. Illinois accepted her responsibility to the Union and promptly met every challenge posed to her. As the state then took a foremost place in the eyes of the nation, so it must again in the centennial years ahead.

It is clearly our responsibility to take the lead in observing the commemoration of the Civil War so that the whole country can

see Illinois as the leader and proud participant in national affairs that she was one hundred years ago. Illinois is honored to cooperate in these centennial activities with the other states and with the national Civil War Centennial Commission.

At the time this report was written, forty-three states had established Civil War Centennial Commissions. Many of these state commissions have undertaken ambitious plans for centennial observances and have received large financial appropriations from their respective legislative bodies in order to carry out these plans. In the most general of terms, southern states are projecting battle re-enactments and programs for visiting the scenes of Civil War action, while northern states are planning study and information programs designed particularly for the education of school children. For example:

Two major projects of the Virginia Commission are the publication of General Robert E. Lee's wartime papers and the construction of a multimillion-dollar Civil War museum and orientation center.

The Maryland Commission has received an initial appropriation of \$150,000 to carry out the first part of the state's centennial program. Part of this fund is to go toward the re-enactment of the Battle of Antietam. The Commission is also making plans for a statewide educational program in the schools and among civic, patriotic, and historical groups.

Arkansas has purchased the Pea Ridge battlefield at a cost of \$500,000. The state will give the property to the federal government for use as a national park whose dedication will be a major event in Arkansas' centennial observance.

The Texas Commission plans to microfilm, in the National Archives, the records of more than 100,000 Texans who served in the Confederate Armed Forces.

Mississippi will publish a commemorative two-volume history entitled *Mississippi in the Confederacy*, one volume to include contemporary documents and the other to contain studies made since 1865.

The Kentucky Commission has received appropriations for the improvement of Civil War sites in that state. It is also planning to present centennial programs at all Kentucky battlefields.

In Louisiana substantial funds have been made available to revitalize the Confederate Memorial Hall and to modernize exhibits which include some of the finest Confederate collections in the South.

In Missouri the Civil War Centennial Commission has begun a drive to acquire battle sites located in areas subject to urbanization.

The North Carolina Commission is planning to restore the Bennet place—the home just outside of Durham where Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Union General William T. Sherman.

HOW ILLINOIS SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR

Illinois, too, has an impressive story to share with the nation. In honor of her men who fought for “National Unity and State Sovereignty,” she should commemorate this Civil War Centennial with appropriate dignity and pride.

No state in the Union has greater reason to observe the centennial of its proud Civil War record than does Illinois. Perhaps our first reason for pride is the fact that our statesmen were among the most active in the nation in their efforts to avoid the outbreak of hostilities. None felt the tragedy of civil conflict more deeply than Stephen A. Douglas, whose last words were an admonition to defend the Constitution and preserve the Union, or than Abraham Lincoln, on whose shoulders fell the heaviest burden of all.

When news of the firing on Fort Sumter reached Illinois, the state responded with a determination that still merits admiration. The first call for troops came in April, 1861, and by October of that year we had forty-three regiments in active service—more than even the most populous state in the North had supplied.

Great credit for the proud record Illinois made during that national crisis is due to the aggressive leadership of the zealous and

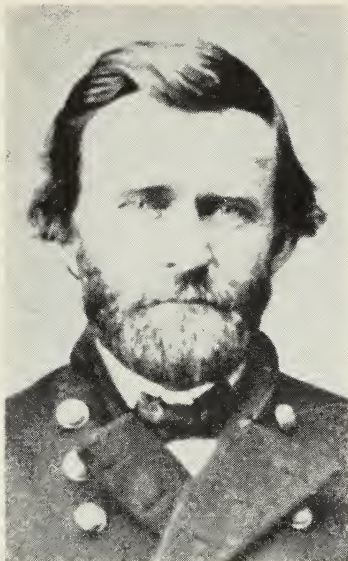


This tintype is the only known picture of Illinois volunteers leaving for the Civil War front. It was taken in Elgin in October, 1861. The unit is Company K, Fifty-second Illinois Infantry, which had marched from Camp Lyon at Geneva.

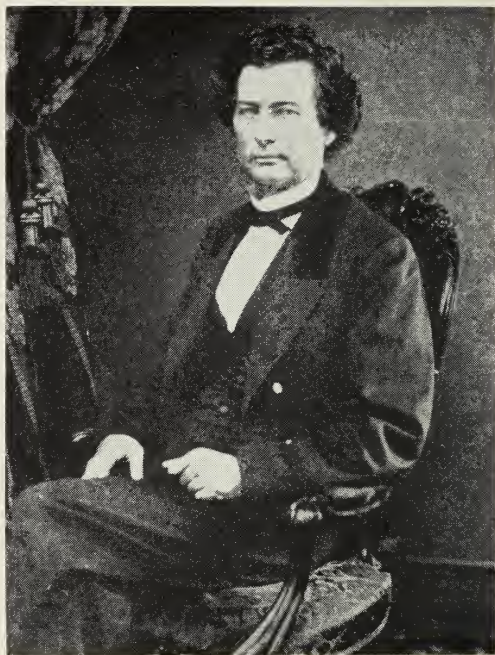
industrious commander-in-chief, Governor Richard Yates. He was grimly set against the southern threats of disunion, and when the test came he summoned forth the resources of the state of Illinois.

Martial spirit was instilled in the peace-loving Illinoisans by stirring appeals to rally to the colors. War mass meetings were held in every village and town to encourage enlistments; funds were raised to contribute to the relief of the families of volunteers; county boards of supervisors and city authorities offered bounties in addition to those held out by the general government. For example, after a succession of increases Rockford volunteers received a bounty of \$400 from the city and county authorities.

It is significant that the most satisfactory response to appeals for enlistment came from the Democratic counties in southern Illinois. At first, people there had tended to regard the contest as an aggres-



Ulysses S. Grant of Galena was colonel of the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry as the first step of his climb to the top command of the Union armies.



Richard Yates, Illinois' Civil War governor.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

EXTRA:

Passed unanimously at 1.15 o'clock, P. M., December 20th, 1860.

AN ORDINANCE

To dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the compact entitled "The Constitution of the United States of America."

We, the People of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do hereby declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained,

That the Ordinance adopted by us in Charleston, on the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was nullified, and which said Act and parts of said so-called Assembly of this State, nullifying amendments of the said Constitution, are hereby repealed, and that the Union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of "The United States of America," is hereby dissolved.

THE

UNION IS DISSOLVED!

The first state to secede from the Union was South Carolina. Since there was not time to wait for a regular edition of the paper, the Charleston Mercury, on December 20, 1860, published this "extra" edition, or broadside.



Camp Butler near Springfield is where many raw recruits were drilled into shape for active service. These two views were taken in 1862. The site is now a national cemetery.





First Lieutenant Marshal M. McIntire, 21, of Springfield served in the Twenty-ninth Illinois Infantry. He was killed at Fort Donelson on February 15, 1862.



Private George W. Stonebarger of Springfield, who enlisted in Company I, Seventh Illinois Infantry, at the age of nineteen.



The band of the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry.



A gun of the Chicago Light Artillery at Camp Smith, Cairo, in June, 1861.



"Dining Hall" of a squad of the Chicago Light Artillery unit at Camp Smith. The roof was made from the shell of a decayed sycamore.

sive war on the part of a new President, and there was, therefore, a reluctance to take up arms; but, when war became a reality, the feeling grew among the people of "Egypt" that they had to contribute their services to the Union effort. Even under the first call, the Cairo district in the extreme southern end of the state offered more companies than could be accepted. On October 1, 1863, the ten extreme southern counties were officially credited with an enlistment excess of nearly fifty per cent above their quotas. Old Democratic strongholds that had been charged with disloyalty, or Copperheadism, now offered recruits with a generosity that shamed their opponents.

Among the Illinois regiments were many representing select social or occupational groups; they reflected the fact that the responsibility for early recruiting was assumed by individuals—civilians who rallied fellow-workers, friends, and neighbors to the colors. Certain regiments consisted almost entirely of country men and farmers; the State Agricultural Society undertook the organization of an entire brigade in 1862. At the same time, railroad men were organizing another brigade; the Chicago Railway Battalion was one of the many units formed in response to the President's 1862 call for three hundred thousand more men. Early in the war Colonel C. E. Hovey, president of Illinois State Normal University, raised the "Normal Regiment," composed to a very large degree of schoolteachers and advanced students.

The adopted citizens of Illinois also made important contributions toward winning the battles of the Civil War. The Germans around Belleville responded enthusiastically from the start; other ethnic companies were also organized at Springfield, Ottawa, and elsewhere. The Thirteenth Cavalry Regiment was the "German Guides," organized at Chicago in December, 1861. The Irish were not to be outdone. In a week's time they organized in Chicago the Twenty-third Illinois, otherwise called the "Irish Brigade." Irish companies from Springfield and Rockford also tendered their services. The following year, the "Cameron Guards" of Springfield were recruited, while the "Ryan Guards" from Galena and other companies were organized for an Irish regiment. Another unit,

This picture of Abraham Lincoln taken by Mathew B. Brady after the first year of the war portrays a saddened and worried President.



known as the "Irish Legion" or the Ninetieth Infantry, was mustered into service at Chicago in the late summer of 1862. During the first two years of the war two so-called "Scotch Regiments," the Twelfth and the Sixty-fifth, were organized. The Jewish residents of Chicago were also aroused, and in 1862 they raised a company together with a fund of several thousand dollars to put that company in the field. The Portuguese in Springfield and in Morgan County enrolled large numbers in the companies recruited in those regions.

The state of Illinois, from April 17, 1861, to April 30, 1865, furnished a total of 256,297 men—for periods of service which varied from three months to three years; there were 152 regiments and three companies of infantry, 17 regiments of cavalry, and two regiments and nine batteries of artillery.

A regiment in the Civil War was not at all like the regiment we know today: the maximum size of an infantry regiment was 1,025 officers and men; the minimum that would be accepted was 845. A regiment had 10 companies, each with 82 privates, 1 wagoner, 2 musicians, 8 corporals, 4 sergeants, 1 first sergeant, 1



Ransom P. Stowe, of Perry, Pike County, was fourteen when he enlisted on September 5, 1861. He served in the Thirty-third Illinois Infantry until his discharge on June 9, 1865.



Private George W. Crane, 18, of Sadorus, Champaign County, served in Company I, Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry.



Company A, Chicago Light Artillery at Cairo, June, 1861.



The two men standing in the middle of this group on the "porch" of the Post Office at Cairo, Illinois, in September, 1861, are Generals Ulysses S. Grant and John A. McClernand. Grant is at the left with his hands thrust into his pockets; McClernand is directly in front of the pillar.

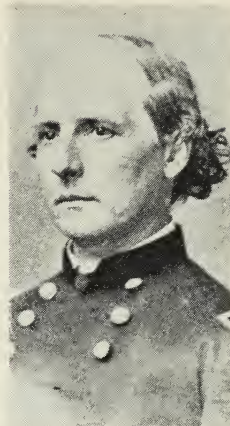
ILLINOIS' MAJOR GENERALS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Giles A. Smith



John A. Logan



Stephen A. Hurlbut



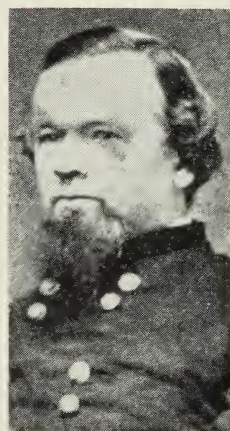
James H. Wilson



John M. Palmer



Wesley Merritt



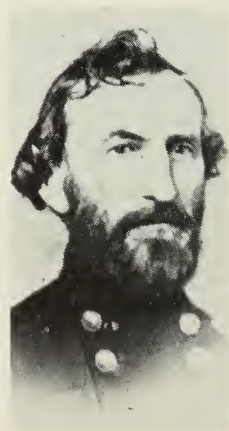
John M. Schofield



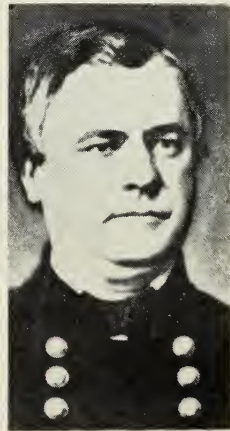
John N. Pope



Benjamin H. Prentiss



John A. McClernand



Richard J. Oglesby



Benjamin H. Grierson

second lieutenant, 1 first lieutenant, and 1 captain. The regiment staff contained 2 principal musicians, 1 hospital steward, 1 commissary sergeant, 1 quartermaster sergeant, 1 sergeant major, 1 chaplain, 2 assistant surgeons, 1 surgeon (ranked as a major), 1 quartermaster, 1 adjutant, 1 major, 1 lieutenant colonel, and 1 colonel. The 10 companies had 101 men each and the staff consisted of 15 men. When a regiment's strength was the minimum acceptable for service (845), the number of privates in each company was reduced from 82 to 64.

Cavalry regiments generally totaled 1,200 men, or 12 companies of 100 men each. Light artillery was composed of batteries with a maximum strength of 150 men and 6 guns, although usually there were only 4 guns to a battery. Twelve batteries, or a minimum of 48 guns, generally formed a regiment; batteries ordinarily acted as independent commands.

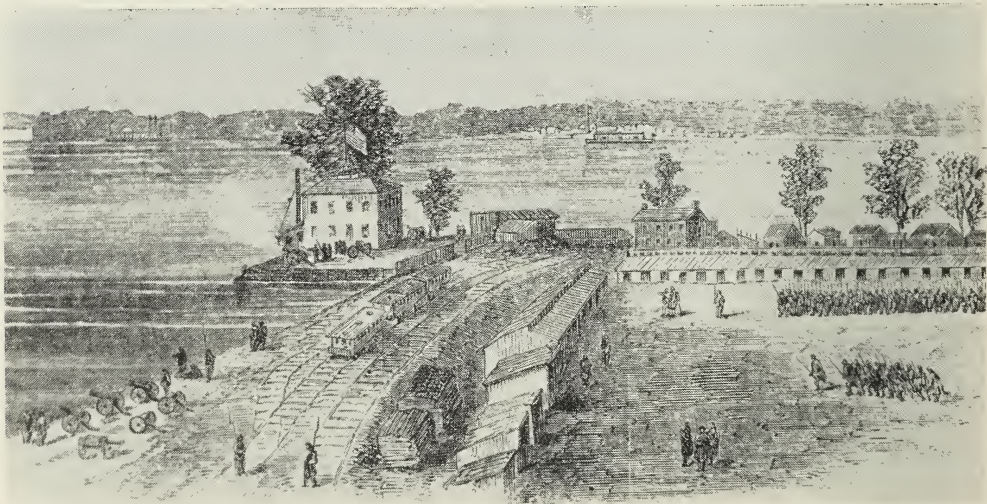
These were the basic military organizations of the Civil War, the 1,000-man infantry regiment, the 1,200-man cavalry regiment, and the 150-man artillery battery. Actually, these organizations were hardly ever at full strength, and regiments at less than half strength were found as the war progressed. The higher military units were these: two or more regiments made a brigade, two or more brigades a division, two or more divisions a corps, and two or more corps an army. Union armies were named after rivers—the Army of the Potomac, the Army of the Tennessee—while Confederate units were named after states—the Army of Tennessee, the Army of Northern Virginia. All in all, the army was a loose and informal organization; the politicians, the generals, and the privates all learned as the war progressed.

An examination of a few of the most famous Illinois regiments gives evidence of their records of achievement. The Eighth Illinois, first commanded by Colonel Richard Oglesby, fought at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Raymond, Champion's Hill, New Orleans, and Fort Blakely, with casualties totaling more than 30 per cent of its almost 2,000 men.

The Ninth Illinois, first commanded by Colonel Eleazer Paine, was perhaps the most famous of all Illinois units; it fought at



The hospital corps at Camp Butler—at one time during the Civil War. Seated, left to right, are: Allen Bradley and Henry Hayes, clerks; Charles F. Mills and H. D. Hill, hospital stewards; and Jim Allen, clerk. Standing are W. D. Forbes and Charles Hutchison, clerks; A. G. Kincaid, surgeon in charge; John J. Cook, clerk; and W. I. Kincaid, assistant hospital steward.



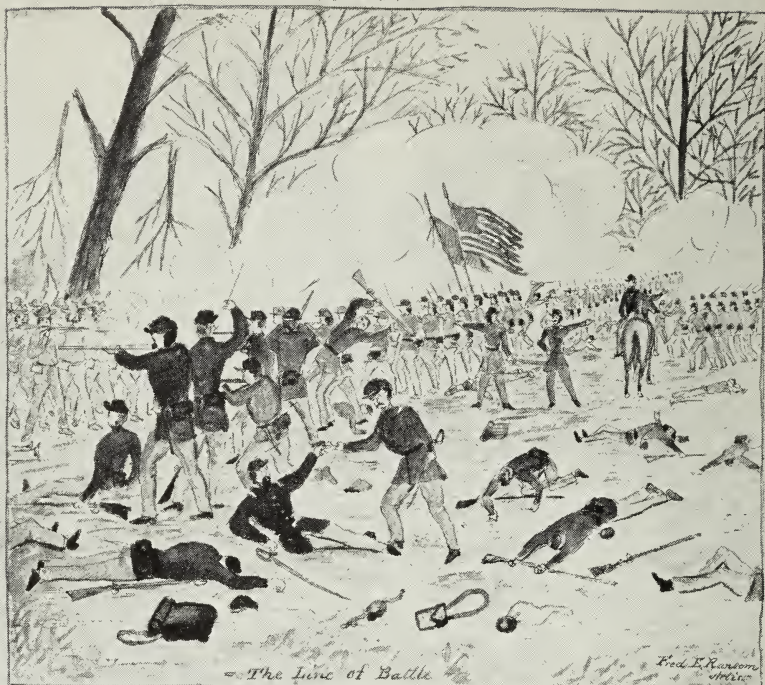
Military activities at Cairo, Illinois, at the point where the Mississippi and Ohio rivers meet, as pictured in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, June 8, 1861.



Two of these three Springfield youths, who served in the Seventh Illinois Infantry, were later killed at Allatoona Pass, in Georgia. Corporal Charles J. Myers, left, died on October 5, 1864, and his friend Recruit John W. Johnson, center, a day earlier. Presumably Corporal Onan Gunsteenson, right, survived the war.

Fort Donelson and then at Shiloh, where it lost 366 out of 578 men present, the second greatest loss in killed and wounded of any infantry regiment in the Civil War. When the Ninth was mustered out in 1864, it had lost more than half of its men, 792 out of 1,493. Other famous Illinois regiments were the Eleventh Infantry, with 19 per cent dead in battles, losing, for example, 339 out of 500 at Fort Donelson; the Twelfth, with 12 per cent dead in battle and 40 per cent casualties; the Twentieth, with 50 per cent casualties; the Twenty-first, Grant's first field command, with 20 per cent casualties; the Twenty-second, with 50 per cent lost; the Thirtieth, 30 per cent; the Thirty-first, John A. Logan's first command, with 30 per cent; the Thirty-fourth, 30 per cent; the Thirty-sixth, with 50 per cent; the Thirty-ninth, "Yates Phalanx," 30 per cent; the Fortieth, 40 per cent. The Forty-second, Forty-fourth, Fifty-fifth (which had 91 pairs of brothers enlisted, of whom 58 individuals were killed), Seventy-third, Eighty-second, Eighty-fourth, Eighty-

Shiloh -



Wallace's 11th Regiment Illinois Infantry Lt Col T. H. Ransom Commanding.

Many Civil War soldiers kept diaries but Frederick E. Ransom, a native of Vermont who enlisted at Vandalia and served in the Eleventh Illinois Infantry, recorded his experiences in a series of thirty drawings. Here is his version of the Battle of Shiloh.



Members of Company E, Forty-seventh Illinois Infantry (most of whom were from Tazewell County), photographed at Oxford, Mississippi, on December 18, 1862.



Members of Company C, Thirty-second Illinois Infantry, most of whom were from Carlinville, Macoupin County.

ninth, Ninety-third, One Hundred-fourth, all had casualties as high as 35 per cent. Nor should the Sixth and Seventh Cavalry, which rode to fame in Grierson's Raid, be omitted.

Back of the serried battalions that marched forth from Illinois there rallied legions of loyal women to minister to the physical and moral well-being of the fighters in the field. Nimble hands were set to work manufacturing the flags and uniforms with which the volunteer companies were outfitted. The eager women rolled bandages and made shirts, socks, and other articles of clothing. The needs of sick and wounded soldiers and of families left without support in nearly every community were met by local soldiers' aid societies. Sociables and benefit concerts and performances were arranged as means of raising funds for supplies; hospital stores were collected; funds were solicited from merchants; and farmers



Corporal William A. Wyatt, of Lamb's Point (now Worden), Madison County, served in Company D, 117th Illinois Infantry. He died on July 14, 1865.



This picture of Captain John H. Phillips (Greenville, Bond County), of the Twenty-second Illinois Infantry, was taken as he returned to camp from picket duty on May 26, 1863.



The Sixth Illinois Cavalry was a southern Illinois regiment. The officers shown in this picture are, seated, left to right, Captain Firth Charlesworth (from Shawneetown), Company L; Captain Alonzo D. Pierce (Pope County), Company A; Captain William B. Peterson (Johnson County), Company B; Captain Frank W. Babcock (Jackson County), Company M; and Captain Hugh F. Patterson (Golconda), Company G. Standing are, left to right, Captain Elijah T. Phillips (Cairo), Company M; an unidentified officer; Colonel Mathew H. Starr (Jacksonville—he died of wounds on October 1, 1864); and Haney R. Parker, adjutant.

were induced to bring in their surplus of fruits and vegetables in the summer and wood in winter for the benefit of soldiers' families. In 1863 ladies' Union Leagues began to spread all over the state. Members of these organizations often ventured into new fields of service, acting as substitutes for clerks who enlisted in service and, in certain instances, turning out in a body to plant gardens and small farms in order to send the produce to the soldiers.

Meanwhile, Illinois troops were winning fame on every battle-



This father and son are Captain Adley N. Gregory, 126th Illinois Infantry, and Corporal James A. Gregory, Sixty-second Illinois Infantry. They lived in Lovington, Moultrie County.

field. At home political partisans followed the careers of their favorites. Among the Democratic generals were John A. Logan, John A. McClernand, and Ulysses S. Grant; the Republican generals included "Dick" Oglesby and Stephen A. Hurlbut. Thus, military leadership fell on the shoulders of able men, who expended their full energies in behalf of national unity, regardless of their political persuasions.

By and large, Illinois soldiers fought in the West rather than the East, along the Mississippi rather than the Potomac, before Atlanta rather than Richmond, and at Shiloh rather than Gettysburg. But even in the East, a few Illinois units were actively en-

gaged at Chancellorsville; Drewry's Bluff, Virginia; at Deep Bottom and Darbytown Road; Bentonville, North Carolina; and Petersburg, Virginia.

But in the West, Illinois played a major part; at Belmont, Fort Donelson, Pea Ridge; and at bloody Shiloh, where of the fourteen regiments with the heaviest losses seven were from Illinois; at Hatchie Bridge and Hartsville, Tennessee; Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi, and at Stone's River, Tennessee, at Raymond and at Champion's Hill; at Vicksburg, Jackson, Chickamauga, Knoxville, Missionary Ridge, Ringgold, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, Allatoona Pass, Franklin, Nashville, Fort Blakely—Illinois was there. High on the regimental casualty lists, Illinois men left a blood trail from Cairo all the way to New Orleans and Savannah; Sherman's March to the Sea was made with more than seventy Illinois regiments participating.

If we furnished quantity, we also furnished quality. The two brightest names on the Union side were Lincoln and Grant. And there were others—Logan, Palmer, Ellsworth, Grierson, Baker, and many more.

All in all, Illinois had a proud record of patriotic participation in the Civil War. She sent the President to Washington and the victorious general to Appomattox Court House. But perhaps, in the long run, it was the ingrained tradition of individual liberty and personal dignity under the Constitution that made so many volunteers fight to preserve the American Union. By so doing, Illinoisans were fighting to perpetuate a manner of living in the state which was their home, and which is now ours. In large part because of their tremendous sacrifices, our state of Illinois continues to be a fine place in which to live.

THE ILLINOIS COMMISSION

The public response to the establishment of the Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois has been enthusiastic. Requests for information regarding the state's centennial plans have been

received from a multitude of city, county, and academic agencies, as well as from business and civic groups.

The Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois, since it was established on July 17, 1959, has held meetings throughout the state: in Springfield, on December 11, 1959; Carbondale, on January 11, 1960; Starved Rock, on April 4; East St. Louis, on May 5; Chicago, on November 10; and Springfield on January 27, 1961. Six members of the State Commission attended the meeting of the national Civil War Centennial Commission in St. Louis in May, 1960, and three members represented Illinois at the Midwest Regional Civil War Centennial Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 10. Four members met with representatives of the Illinois Central Railroad and of the Civil War Centennial Commissions of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Mississippi, at the latter's request, in Chicago on February 6, 1961.

The long-range plans drafted at these meetings will serve as a blueprint for Illinois' commemoration of the Civil War Centennial. Several projects are already underway.

The Commission has reprinted the article "Illinois and the Civil War," by Clyde C. Walton, from the 1959-1960 *Blue Book*. This 32-page pamphlet will be distributed free in response to the many requests for such information.

A comprehensive inventory of Illinois Civil War monuments, statues, markers, and plaques located both in the state and in the South has been completed.

The Secretary of the Commission has met with and advised the Civil War Centennial Committees of both Eastern and Southern Illinois Universities and has worked with Civil War Round Tables, county historical societies, and similar groups.

Specific plans have been made to work with the city of Cairo in commemorating its important and significant role in the war. The first such Illinois community to be honored, Cairo will attract visitors from all parts of the state to its Civil War Centennial program on April 22 and 23, 1961.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ILLINOIS

The Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois, in pursuance of directives from the Illinois General Assembly as prescribed by House Bill No. 879, herewith presents, for legislative consideration and action, its recommendations for Illinois' commemoration of the Centennial of the Civil War:

- 1) Establishment of a permanent Civil War Centennial Commission to plan and co-ordinate the state's observances of the Civil War—this commission to have its headquarters in the Illinois State Historical Library and to submit its final report at the end of the centennial period. This Commission, the authorized agent of the state, will be responsible for representing the state of Illinois and for effectively participating in the various local, interstate, and national Civil War activities.
- 2) Adoption of a program to make available to the public—both adults and school children—authoritative materials relating to Illinois and the Civil War. These materials should include handbooks, maps, brochures, pamphlets, teaching aids, and monographs which not only will provide accurate information but will stimulate the people of Illinois to take pride in their part in the great national struggle for unity.

Proposed publication plans include the following:

- a) A guide to places of Civil War interest in Illinois. Although Illinois was never a battleground, the state abounds in significant Civil War sites. There were Confederate prisons in Illinois at Camp Douglas, Chicago; at Camp Butler, Springfield; at Rock Island; and at Alton. Among the camps of Illinois troops Camp Defiance in Cairo is of particular significance: within a few days after the firing on Fort Sumter, Illinois troops were rushed there to defend the state against possible Confederate invasion. The homes of General Grant in Galena and of President Lincoln in Springfield are also of special interest. A guide to these and the

many other sites will be invaluable to the student as well as to the tourist who might be inspired to visit these historic places.

b) A guide to places where Illinois soldiers fought. This guide is intended to be used by Illinoisans who plan to travel through the South in the centennial years. Large numbers of Illinois soldiers participated in the battles of Forts Henry and Donelson, of Shiloh, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga; Vicksburg, Mississippi; Atlanta, Georgia; Appomattox, Virginia; and on hundreds of other lesser-known fields. Some of these battlefields are preserved as national parks.

c) A guide to the manuscripts, diaries, and other primary historical sources held privately as well as those owned by university and college libraries, local public libraries, the State Historical Library, and other state departments. Among such papers in the Illinois State Historical Library, for instance, is the correspondence of many prominent Illinoisans, including Governors Yates and Oglesby, and Stephen A. Douglas, John A. Logan, and, of course, Lincoln and Grant. In addition to the soldiers' dairies, muster rolls, and regimental historical material in public depositories, there are still many others in private hands. Such manuscripts are invaluable, for not only do they add color and dimension to an otherwise lifeless black and white picture, but they are actually the stuff from which history is written.

d) A guide to the Civil War for Illinois teachers and students. Since there is no complete and up-to-date textbook on Illinois history for any age group, this guide will emphasize the part played by Illinois in the Civil War. It will include lists of study topics for written and oral reports; suggestions for student activities; an annotated list of Civil War books, poetry, plays, and other teaching helps, such as film strips, slides, and recordings.

e) A series of releases to Illinois newspapers on the history of the state's participation in the Civil War and a chronological guide to centennial events in Illinois and other states.

f) A set of scholarly volumes comparable to those published by the Illinois Centennial Commission of 1918. Three volumes would be required to present a comprehensive history of Illinois'

participation in the Civil War. One volume will deal with military history, regimental movements, Illinois' participation in battle, Illinois military leaders, and related war matters. A second volume will discuss socio-economic aspects of the day: industrial movements, religious activities, costume, decor, and social life. The third will analyze the political developments in Illinois during the Civil War: elections, swing of political power, legislation, and prominent state political figures. These volumes will not only be authoritative but will be written for the benefit of the general citizen and will long stand as a tangible and significant contribution of the state of Illinois to the centennial of the great Civil War.

g) A general but brief history of Illinois in the Civil War, similar to the pamphlet already reprinted by the Commission from the most recent *Illinois Blue Book*. This pamphlet is to be made available in quantity to all interested Illinoisans.

- 3) The collection and preservation of Civil War letters, diaries, and photographs. The citizens of Illinois will be urged to search their attics and personal effects for such indispensable primary sources. These mementos of the great conflict will be of value to scholars and will provide enjoyment and inspiration to the patrons of museums, libraries, and other public depositories.
- 4) Co-operation with the national Civil War Centennial Commission and other state commissions in helping to extend the over-all commemorative program to as many communities in the nation as possible. Because we are proud of our Civil War record, we look forward to sharing it with the entire nation.
- 5) Participation in the many observances planned by civic and patriotic organizations throughout the state and the nation. For example, on April 22 and 23, 1961, Cairo, the first Illinois community to honor its part in the war, will commemorate the anniversary of the arrival of the first Illinois volunteers in that city one hundred years ago. Co-operation with, and advice to, community and historical organizations wishing to arrange

fitting dignified ceremonies for Civil War Centennial observances is a responsibility which the Commission should assume.

- 6) Recognition of the many Illinoisans who have made important contributions to our knowledge of the Civil War or who in one way or another have advanced the ideas exemplified by Illinoisans who participated in the war between the states.
- 7) At a time when the word "Patriotism" often produces a sneer, there is need for a prolonged, reflective look at a period when love of country and devotion to the principles of freedom inspired millions of men to leave their homes and take up arms. Such a look may help restore the word "Patriotism" to its proper place in our vocabulary and to its rightful position as a symbol of the virtues most admired by Americans. To this end, the Commission recommends a return to the celebration of "old-fashioned Fourth of July" and to similar celebrations of other national holidays and the centennials of important Civil War occasions.
- 8) The Commission requests of the General Assembly an appropriation adequate to carry out these programs throughout the Seventy-second Biennium.



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